

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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St. Patrick's Week Enforcement Nets 62 Arrests in Chico and Sutter County

ABC Works with Friday Night Live Partnership and Helps Local Police Deal with Alcohol-Related Problems

Chico/Sutter County— In response to the U.S. Surgeon General's Office *Call to Action on Underage Drinking*, the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) today announced that St. Patrick's Day enforcement efforts during the week leading up to and on St. Patrick's Day in Chico and Sutter County resulted in 62 arrests that included six adults who purchased and furnished alcohol to minors and five store clerks who sold alcohol to minors. Investigators also worked with minor decoys who were able to purchase alcohol from five separate businesses.

ABC used money from three separate grants funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety and the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention to pay for most of the enforcement operations. The department utilized funds from a Minor Decoy Grant, a Shoulder Tap Grant and a Friday Night Live Partnership Grant. The grants were awarded to the ABC to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors.

Acting ABC Director David Goss said "with a continued effort we can reduce the number of alcohol violations and make communities safer."

ABC investigators worked closely with local law enforcement agencies. Investigators issued citations for various alcohol-related charges including 24 minors in possession of alcohol, 14 for open container violations, six sales of alcohol to minors, seven public drunkenness violations, five adults were cited for furnishing alcohol to minors, one person was cited for possession of marijuana and two underage individuals were cited for possession of alcohol in a vehicle.

ABC used a Minor Decoy Operation, a Shoulder Tap Operation and general enforcement. Minor Decoy Operations are compliance checks in which a minor under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempts to purchase alcohol from licensees.

Those who sold to the minor face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the alcoholic beverage license of the business where a sale occurred. That may include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license. ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors.

ABC Investigators and local law enforcement also conducted a program called a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation which targets adults who purchase alcohol for people less than 21 years of age. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol. If the adults comply, investigators then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

There are many large events held in California each year and the majority are tied to holidays or traditional celebrations such as St. Patrick's Day. The ABC will continue to work with local police, colleges, community-based organizations and youth organizations such as the Friday Night Live Partnership and the Youth Leadership Institute to crack down on underage drinking.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.